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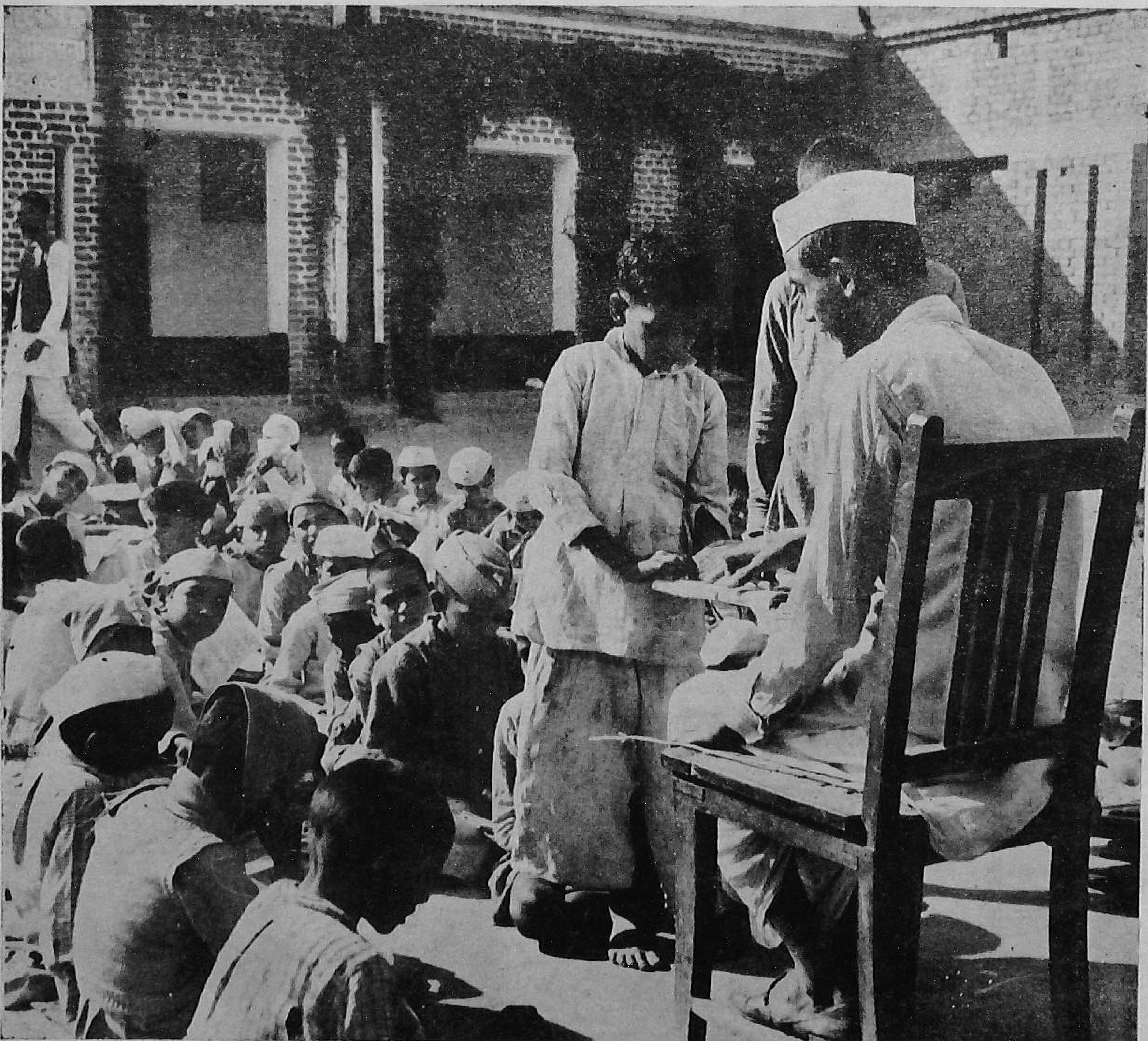

Citizens of Tomorrow

VOL. V. NO. 3 OCTOBER 1958 PRICE 15 NP

New designs through old techniques

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मज़दूर ग्राम सेवक मंज़िल

GRAM SEVAK

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INDIA 1958 EXHIBITION

Country's Planned Development

Planned and executed in the record time of less than five months, India 1958 is the first National Exhibition of its kind.

Over an area of 123 acres—46 acres of these newly reclaimed—this Exhibition in New Delhi presents a co-ordinated and comprehensive picture of the Nation's march towards economic well-being, social regeneration and cultural advancement.

To complete this gigantic undertaking within record time nearly 12,000 labourers, 500 artisans, 200 engineers and a large number of technicians literally worked round the clock. At the Exhibition site the value of construction undertaken by the C.P.W.D. is about Rs. 35 lakhs. The other Departments of the Government of India as well as various corporations and companies belonging to Government have undertaken work for nearly Rs. 50 lakhs. In addition, the private sector have completed construction to the extent of roughly Rs. 40 lakhs. In all, to put up the Exhibition the various agencies have been able to execute work worth Rs. 125 lakhs.

More than 160 major industries in the private and public sectors and Ministries and Departments of Central and State Governments have attempted in this Exhibition to provide an account—both panoramic and detailed—of their achievements and their role in the national economy and in planned development.

Although the number of pavilions and stalls is over 160, the total number of participants is several times bigger. In a number of cases, under one roof there are groups of participants.

In a separate trade centre, a large variety of consumer goods—machine made as well as handicrafts products—made in India are on display and sale in about 135 shops.

Architecturally, the Exhibition presents a blend of the modern functional styles and ancient historical styles like Sanchi. There are in-between some charming innovations like the pavilion of a textile mill which represents a huge inverted bowl.

LIFE INSURANCE

IN RURAL RAJASTHAN

RAJASTHAN has been the first State in the country to organise life insurance for the villagers. This important step aiming at developing a habit of saving among the villagers and securing substantial funds to the Panchayats to finance their development works was taken on September 1, 1958, when in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation the scheme was launched in six development blocks of the State.

The Scheme provided an Extension Officer for each Block like other extension officers exclusively for insurance work on an intensive scale. He is a field officer of the Life Insurance Corporation appointed and paid by them for work in that block alone. The villagers could purchase endowment policies of Rs. 500|- or more and the premium could be paid in two half yearly instalments at the harvest time. The premium for a policy of Rs. 500|- works out at Rs. 20|- per annum and the payment of this amount in two instalments of Rs. 10|- each is not difficult in many cases.

It has been intended to turn this project into one of profit for the local panchayats, which in turn are to shoulder the responsibility of development works in their areas following the process of democratic decentralisation. Under the scheme, the Panchayats are to become agents and it is proposed that either the Sarpanch, Panch, Panchayat Secretary or the Secretary of the Co-operative Society, whosoever is nominated by the Panchayat, should accept the agency of the Life Insurance Corporation in his own name and sign a bond to the effect that all commission etc. due on the sale of policies would be payable to the Panchayat and that he would have no power to revoke this authority. The Sarpanch, Panch or the Secretary will, however, get 1|4th of the commission from the Panchayat out of the total proceeds including renewals, bonus etc. This could in many cases come to a substantial amount.

The agent who sells policies to the insurers gets 25 to 35% of the first year's premium as his commission. In case of his agency remaining alive, he continues to get 5% commission on the annual premium as renewal. Thus for example, if in a panchayat area 200 policies of Rs. 500|- could be sold, the annual premium would amount to Rs. 4,000|- and an original commission of Rs. 1,400|- and a renewal commission of Rs. 200|- per annum would become payable to the agent.

With such promising returns, the scheme of life insurance could bring about many improvements in rural life. While the villagers would be able to develop a habit of saving, they would also be ensured of substantial monetary help in the event of any mishap. To the Panchayats, it would definitely prove to be a substantial source of income and the Panchayat could distribute that amount over the various Vikas Mandals for developmental activities.

Since the scheme was launched only a month ago, it is too early to review the progress of its working or assess its results. The target of business for each Block for the current insurance year ending December 31, 1958, is Rs. 1 lakh per month and the reports received so far from Govindgarh Block of Alwar District augur well for the achievement of the target. The Sarpanch of Barodameo, a village in this Block, has already sold policies worth Rs. 14,000|- against a target of Rs. 25,000|- set for his area. The Sarpanch of Mojpur in the same Block has secured business worth Rs. 7,000|-. The agents have taken up the work in right earnest in 9 of the 14 panchayat areas of this Block, while the appointment of agents is being finalised in the remaining 5 areas.

Life Insurance in an area like Rajasthan with its low social, economic and educational ebb may not be smooth sailing always and everywhere. But, the villagers of Rajasthan who have not lagged behind in taking to modern farm practices and other items of the programme are expected to respond to this scheme with equal zeal and enthusiasm.

TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE

M. S. Randhawa

Vice-President, Indian Council of Agricultural Research

AGRICULTURAL development, which ultimately is the only solution to India's food problem, depends upon five major factors :

Good quality seed; Manures and fertilisers; Water for irrigation; Efficient implements; Technical personnel.

Much has been done so far with regard to the first four items. Good seed is being multiplied and distributed by the Agriculture Departments of the Central and State Governments; we have set up a fertiliser factory at Sindri and propose to set up more fertiliser factories; we are building numerous major irrigation and minor irrigation works all over the country, and we are importing and developing agricultural implements.

Hitherto, however, sufficient attention has not been paid to the training of agricultural experts of the highest calibre. The Government of India has recognised in its Scientific Policy Resolution of 1958 that the provision of technical personnel is more important than any other factor, inasmuch as the technical experts will be able to devise suitable ways and means of achieving quick progress with the resources at our command.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, which can justifiably be proud of its record of achievement in the field of agricultural research, has been providing facilities for post-graduate training in Agriculture since 1924. In 1937 it began to award Associateship Diplomas, and in 1945 the post-graduate teaching programme was organised in a systematic manner. This Associateship Course was a sort of apprenticeship in agricultural research. The Institute maintained very high standards, with the result that the Associate I.A.R.I. Diploma was recognised throughout India as being equivalent to the M.Sc. degree in Agriculture.

This, however, was not enough. Many young men from India still had to go abroad if they wanted to specialise in various branches of agricultural science and to obtain post-graduate degrees. For obvious reasons, very few could go abroad for this purpose.

In order to meet the demand for an increasing number of experts required in the field of agriculture, a decision was ultimately taken to start post-graduate courses leading to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in all branches of agriculture at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. The well-equipped research laboratories, excellent library and teams of very experienced and outstanding scientists at the I.A.R.I. have made it possible to plan that the training in the new Post-graduate School at the I.A.R.I. shall be of a standard comparable with that imparted by the best Institutions in the world.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute was founded in 1905 with the generous donation of Henry Phipps, an American philanthropist. Today, after more than half-a-century, the Rockefeller Foundation of America is assisting us in organising this Post-graduate School. The system of education proposed for the Post-graduate School is based upon the systems and practices prevailing in American Universities, and is expected to be of immense importance in the field of post-graduate training in Agriculture.

Under this scheme the prevalent system of a rigid syllabus, followed by a rigorous examination, has been done away with. Each student will be expected to take up one major subject and one or more minor subjects in supporting fields so that he will be the better equipped for dealing with practical pro-

blems. In addition, he may have to take some subsidiary courses in order to make up for deficiencies in his undergraduate training.

Moreover, he will have an adviser who will be from his major field of studies, and the programme of studies for each student will be under the guidance of an advisory committee consisting of two staff representatives from his major field and at least one from each minor field.

After successfully completing his course work, the student will go through a series of comprehensive examinations held under the direction of a committee including representatives from his major and minor fields and external examiners. These comprehensive examinations will consist of papers in the various subjects of his major and minor fields followed by an oral examination by the committee as a whole in session. The number of papers, marks and other details regarding these examinations shall be determined for each candidate by his adviser and the representatives from his major and minor fields.

In addition to the course work, each student will have to submit a thesis which shall be examined by a committee of three. An oral examination shall be held jointly by the examiners of the thesis after adjudication of the thesis, and the student will have to make a satisfactory defence of his thesis as judged by the examining committee.

It will be seen that this system provides considerable flexibility in the subjects and methods of training and places each student under the personal charge of a number of experienced scientists who will watch his progress from day to day and continue to give him guidance. This also means that the students and their teachers will come into very close contact with each other.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, where the new Post-graduate School of Agricultural Studies has been started, was established at Pusa, in Bihar, in 1905. It was transferred to Delhi after the great Bihar earthquake of 1934. Ever since its inception, the Institute has continuously been extending its research activities in order to solve numerous problems in the field of agriculture and also to keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of agricultural research in other parts of the world.

The Institute at present consists of a Directorate, and the seven Divisions of Botany, Agronomy, Mycology and Plant Pathology, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Entomology, Agricultural Engineering and Horticulture. It covers an area of over 1,000 acres, and the Institute's farm land is irrigated by a canal and tubewells. The library possesses over 1,40,000 volumes and receives a thousand journals and periodicals dealing with agriculture and the sciences basic to it.

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World Agricultural Fair

FROM December 11, 1959 to February 14, 1960 India will be the venue of the first World Agriculture Fair. The Fair will essentially be an exhibition of food and agriculture and will bring home to Indian farmers through educative demonstrations how the battle on the food front is being waged and gradually won by farmers all over the world, and thus enable them to equip themselves better to produce more of what are India's immediate needs—food and fibre.

The Fair is being arranged to synchronize with the Eleventh Annual Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, which is proposed to be held in New Delhi during that period. The Fair will last about 10 weeks.

The main objectives of the Fair are :

1. To afford to Indian farmers an opportunity to view Indian agriculture in the context of world agricultural improvements, and,

2. To make a comparative assessment of the progress made in the field of agricultural and allied sciences, village industries and rural and community development activities in India.

It is, therefore, proposed :

1. To present in the Fair the various facts and facets of agriculture life and progress in the various States.

2. To exhibit the latest developments in India and also other countries of the world in the field of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, co-operation, village industries, rural housing, food technology, nutrition, etc.

3. To display the latest achievements in the field of agricultural machinery and food processing, preserving and cottage industry equipment of various kinds in all parts of the world.

The scope of the Fair has been kept very wide to enable the various countries of the world, Ministries of the Government of India, Indian States, Commodity Committees, Research Institutes, Boards, Commissions and organizations and manufacturers, distributors and others to exhibit their achievements and display their wares.

The Fair will be divided into six Sectors as follows:

1. Foreign Sector

This will consist of pavilions of various countries. The exhibits in these pavilions will relate to the following items and any other which the country concerned considers worthy of exhibiting.

1. Development, Research, Education and Extension in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery, Poultry, Bee-keeping, etc.

2. Progress in the production, use and distribution of manures and fertilizers.

3. Plant Protection Equipment, Chemicals for insecticides, weedicides, etc.

4. Agricultural Machinery and Food Processing Plants and Equipment — manufacture, use and marketing.

5. Co-operative Development—Credit, Consumer, Industrial and Housing Co-operatives and Co-operative Farming, and Collectives.

6. Marketing—General and Co-operative.

7. Foods of various nations — Processing Preservation and Cookery.

8. Farm Organizations and their achievements.

9. Publicity and Publications on all the above sections, including literature, films, etc.

2. National Sector

This will consist of several pavilions and Courts which will exhibit the following :

1. Agriculture — Crops, Seeds, Manures and Soil Conservation.

2. Agro-industries, Farm Machinery, Transport, Plant Protection, Fertilizers, irrigation and Power, Natural Resources—oil and gas, Rural Housing and Electrification.

3. Animal Husbandry.

4. Horticulture.

5. Forestry and Forest Industries.

6. Food.

7. Co-operation and Marketing.

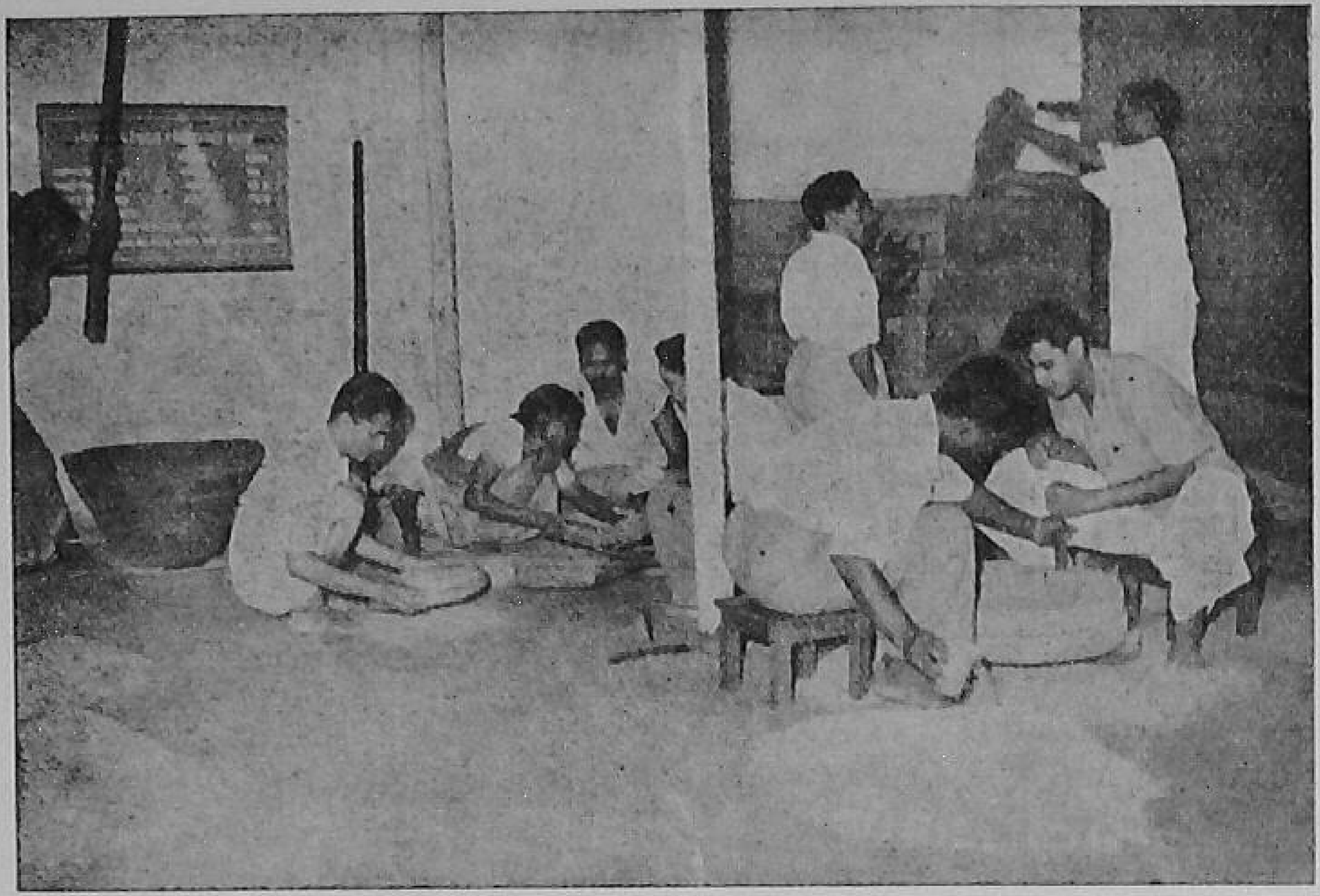
8. Community Projects.

9. Publicity and Publications.

3. State Sector

This will consist of pavilions of various States in India.

(continued on page 11)



Hand-pounded rice is superior to milled rice.

MY STORY—The Rice Grain

U. N. Chatterjee

You may have seen me in the vast stretches of golden yellow paddy crops standing to be harvested in the monsoon regions of India. I am no stranger to the people inhabiting this land, for to most of them I bring health and nourishment and joy of living.

I am familiar to you as dull white little grains which must be boiled before being served. But that is my form after many a torture borne in silence at the hands of men. After harvesting, the grain, which I represent, is separated from the straw. This grain is covered with a brown grey husk which should, doubtless, be removed before I can possibly be of any service. But in doing so they hand me over to owners of rice-mills where I have to undergo process known as milling and polishing. It is during this period that I suffer most and sustain severe injuries.

With the removal of husk in these mills, I lose several layers of my skin or seed coat and also a very important part of my body, the germ or embryo, which happens to be attached to my side. Little do people realize that these parts contain much health-giving and body-building materials removed carry away about half the mineral matter contained in me, one-fourth of the proteins and the major portion of the vitamin content —thiamine, riboflavin and recin—all of which are essential food constituents and are required for the proper physical growth and maintenance of health. What is left behind is only the core of the grain consisting mainly of starchy material covered over by a thin remaining portion of the innermost of the skin-layers—the aleuron layer. The starch serves to provide energy but the aleuron layer being very rich in proteins and Vitamin B undoubtedly possesses health-giving and waste-repairing properties.

If my food qualities are kept intact even as they happen to be after I emerge from milling and polishing treatments, I can benefit the human being whom I have the privilege of serving. But no, 'sufferings is the badge of my tribe'. Before I am served out I must be cooked in boiling water. Much soluble material inside the grain, including vitamin B, passes out into the water in which I am cooked; this water is invariably thrown away, thereby further depriving me of much of the remaining nutritive materials. So when I am finally placed on the table I am a poor and miserable specimen of my initial self, lacking in quality and food value. No wonder that people have run me down as an article of food. But they have judged me wrongly.

I entreat the people, for whose service I am meant, to treat me gently, kindly and with consideration. I appeal to them not to injure me as they are prone to, for in so doing they are causing harm to themselves: they do not realize what they are losing.

Pucca pavements in Punjab villages

PANCHAYATS IN PUNJAB

M. S. Bedi

THE panchayats constitute the most vital factor in the administrative set-up of a country under a parliamentary form of government. That is why our Constitution enjoins upon the States to set up gram panchayats. In fact, the system has been evolved in this land since ages. We were the first to set up and avail of the institution of village republics. These village republics enjoyed comprehensive powers with a view to manage the affairs of the community and served as a link between the people and the Government. The system also represents the fulfilment of Bapu's dream of a Panchayat Rajya in which the humblest and the lowliest among us has been associated with the administration of the State. The panchayat system has afforded the villagers an excellent opportunity to elect their own leaders, to establish the basic units of administration and to shape their destiny nearer to their heart's desire. Through these panchayats, the Government have not only to come in contact with the rural masses but also to extend them the benefit of a welfare State that Punjab is labouring to become.

The establishment of panchayats in the villages marks the beginning of a new era. The responsibility of rural uplift now devolves largely on the villagers themselves. The provision of educational facilities, street lighting, village sanitation, opening of schools and libraries, setting up of maternity and health centres, pavement of village drains and streets, construction of causeways and culverts, starting of veterinary first-aid centres and provision of medical facilities all now fall within the purview of panchayat activity. By assisting public servants in the discharge of their duties, the Panchayats facilitate Government work. If the district authorities have to start a campaign of killing mosquitoes, jackals or rats or for eradication of pernicious weeds, the drive can be a success only through panchayats. They are thus the major agencies in stimulating work for the betterment of the village people and also for the execution of that work. The panchayats have been given judicial and executive powers through legislation and have the right to raise funds through taxation. A gram panchayat is thus a local governing council of a village, having a fixed tenure of three years—enjoying three essential features of a government, i.e. powers, funds and stability. And with the provision of a government at their very door, every Panchayat gives the villagers a sense of security, even a sense of power.

Today, 11,000 Gram Panchayats and 378 Adalti Panchayats covering all the 21,516 revenue estates are functioning in the State. Every village having a population of 500 or above has a Panchayat of its own and villages with less population have been grouped together to form Panchayat units. Each Panchayat consists of 5 to 9 members depending on village population and seats have

been reserved only for Harijans.

FUNDS

In order to enable the Panchayats to discharge their responsibilities effectively, steps have been taken to provide adequate funds. One-tenth of the State land revenue goes to the Panchayat Fund. Besides, additional funds are provided by special grants from the State Government and local bodies. And then they have the right to levy house tax and other taxes with the approval of the Government for beneficient work in their areas. In order to enhance the power of the panchayats, the State Government is further contemplating an increase in the existing allocation of revenues to these bodies. Another proposal is to make the Municipal Committees surrender a part of the octroi duties and place it at the disposal of village panchayats.

The basic conception of setting up a village panchayat is that the petty quarrels occurring in the villages should be decided in the villages and not taken to courts. In this way, the Panchayats take cognizance of cases of criminal and civil nature and by personal influence and persuasion try to bring about compromise in as many cases as possible. During the year 1957-58, nearly 32,000 cases were disposed of by gram panchayats. Of these, 20,000 cases (more than 62 per cent) were compromised.

Our State cannot claim to be an educationally advanced State. Rural areas are particularly backward in this respect. The panchayats have rendered a substantial service in this domain also. Today almost every village can boast of a primary school. Most of the Panchayats are running their own libraries and reading rooms. They have also made arrangements for drinking water for school boys in schools by having installed hand pumps. During last year, 1476 libraries and 546 reading rooms were opened.

RURAL SANITATION

The State Government has launched a special sanitation programme in rural areas at a cost of Rs. 56 lakhs. Under this programme cheap dug-well or bore-hole type latrines are being constructed in private houses and through pattern type and septic tank type for community use at common places. The cost of construction of these latrines will be borne by the Government and Panchayats on 50:50 basis.

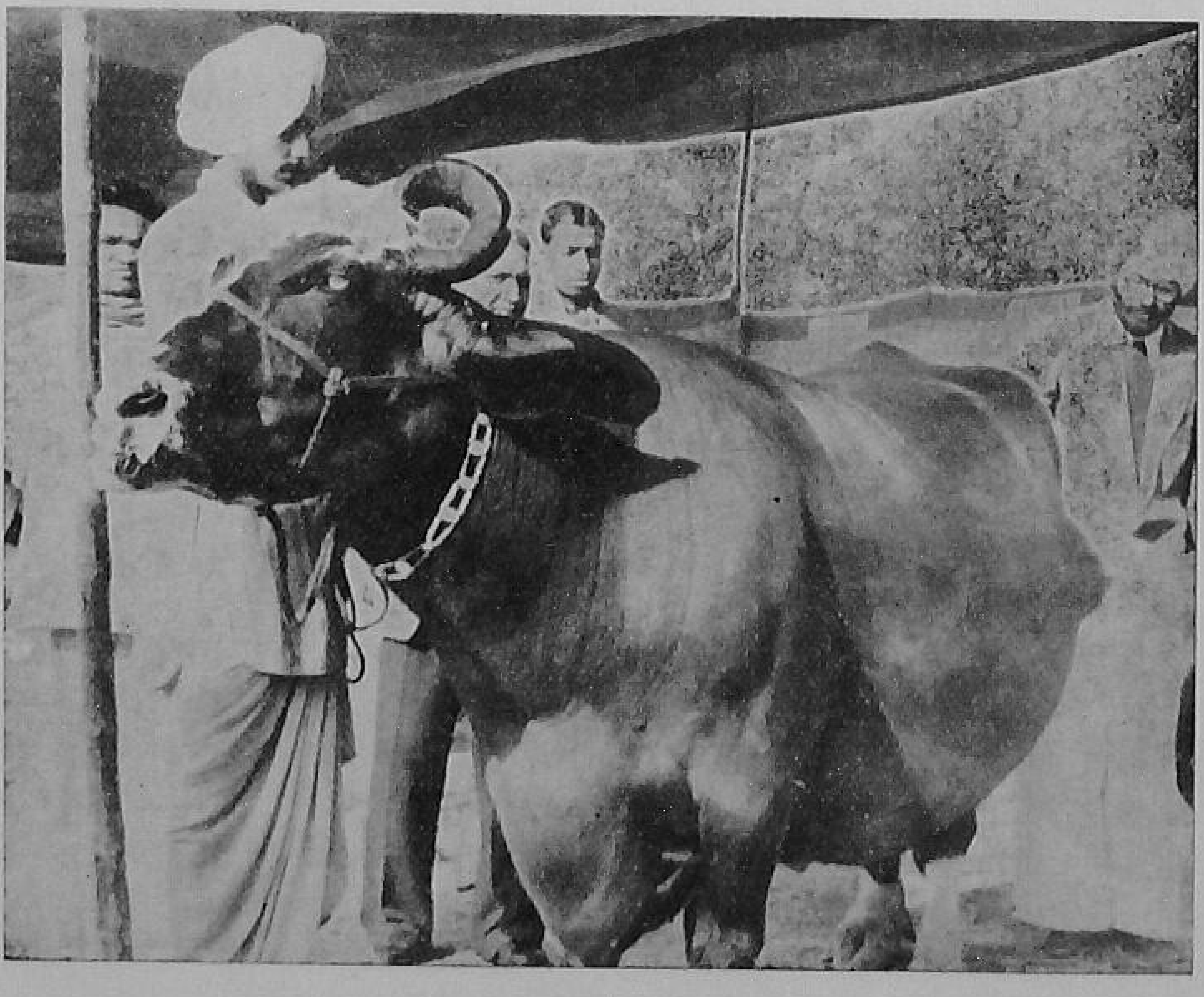
During the year 1957-58, about 2,400 latrines were installed under the scheme. A sum of Rs. 1,88,000 has been allocated as subsidy for the purpose during the fiscal year 1958-59.

The panchayats have also constructed 13,29,886 running feet drains and paved lanes measuring 34,07,160 sq. feet in the villages during the year 1957-58. The number of villages with paved lanes and proper public drains is 4,188 and 4,732 respectively.

DEVELOPMENT WORK

It is in the sphere of development that the panchayats have earned a name for themselves. No work of self-help can be executed unless the co-operation of the panchayats or the villagers is

Village Panchayats organise cattle shows.



forthcoming. And this has come in ample measure. They have constructed approach roads, built school buildings, started first-aid centres, and dug wells for the benefit of the village and the people around. The construction of ten-mile Shamchurasi—Haryana road in Hoshiarpur district is a noble example of self-help and co-operation. Similarly, Gurdaspur Panchayats constructed twelve-mile Kahnuan Gurdaspur road. There are several other similar instances available from all over the State where the panchayats mobilised their people to render valuable services by raising voluntary labour and also contributing cash to accomplish tasks of public utility. It is a happy augury that the *Panchs* have taken up development work in right earnest.

In the sphere of "Grow More Food" drive, panchayats have played a conspicuous role. Through their efforts, more than 22,000 acres of land were brought under plough during 1957-58 alone. The Panchayats arranged composting for good manure on a large scale in the villages. 2,36,683 new manure pits were dug and 2,39,158 repaired. An area of 4,71,441 acres was cleared of noxious weeds. A special scheme for the distribution of fertilizers loans through gram panchayats has also been drawn up. It is being taken up on experimental basis in 14 panchayat areas of Ludhiana district.

The State Government has formulated a scheme for making special water supply arrangements in the water scarcity villages of the State. A provision of Rs. 180 lakhs has been made for Second Five Year Plan period under the National Water Supply Scheme.

Fifty per cent expenditure on the scheme will be met as subsidy by the Government of India, 38 per cent by the Punjab Government through the Punjab Sanitary Board and the remaining 12 per cent from the contributions made by the villagers through gram panchayats.

So far 250 schemes covering 400 villages of various districts of the State have been formulated and the work is being taken in hand.

The Punjab Government has placed a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs at the disposal of the District Panchayat Officers in the State for advancing interest-free loans to gram panchayats. This amount is being utilised for the deveopment of the sources of recurring income of the panchayats. A further provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made in this regard for the current year.

The broad outlines of the programme under the scheme is the development of 'shamlat' and other common lands by providing irrigation facilities, such as sinking of wells, installation of tubewells, pumping sets etc. taking up tractor cultivation and reclamation of barren lands, fruit plantation, stone crushing, slate quarrying, and other commercial operations, wherever possible. Besides, the Panchayats under the scheme will take up milk-dairying, ban-twisting, basket-making, starting of weaving, spinning and tanning centres and other cottage industries.

The panchayats have been of immense help in co-operative farming, introduction of improved methods of land cultivation, setting up of cottage industries, implemention of minor irrigation schemes, formation of co-operative societies and consolidation work.

In short, the panchayats constitute the nucleus round which the entire rural life revolves. If they are up and doing, they can make the future of the people bright. If they are inactive or lethargic, no progress is possible. Let us hope that in times to come panchayats will successfully rejuvenate the life in our villages and translate into reality the dream of Ram Rajya as envisaged by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

—R. W. Emerson.

Cottage Industries in Bengal

THE Government of West Bengal had in 1954 formulated a planned programme of developing a number of cottage industries in the State. Efforts to revive handmade paper, palm gur, beekeeping and Khadi which had been in a moribund state for long in the State were undertaken. A number of production centres were set up and improved techniques were introduced. Liberal State aid proved highly beneficial to the development of these industries. The State has spent Rs. 41.95 lakhs so far.

A sample survey of Bengal's cottage industries was undertaken with the object of exploring the possibilities of establishing new industries and reviving the decadent ones wherever possible.

Hand Spinning

In order to create larger employment opportunities through cottage industries as well as to increase the production of consumer goods, stress was laid on the development schemes of Hand spinning, Khadi weaving, and various other village industries. These schemes have a total outlay of Rs. 446.50 lakhs spread over five years (1956-61). To facilitate the availability of raw materials at reasonable rates to cottage workers and to market their products, two separate schemes—one for procurement and supply of raw materials and the other for marketing of cottage industry products, have been undertaken and a provision of nearly Rs. 1.25 crores has been made. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs out of the total sum of Rs. 75 lakhs allotted for the first instalment on this account, has already been spent.

To ensure easy distribution of loans the Director of Industries has been empowered to grant loans up to Rs. 5,000 in individual cases, without making any reference to the Board of Industries or the Government. Even the District Magistrates have been authorised to grant loans up to Rs. 2,500 in individual cases.

Demonstration Centres

Training units in the form of peripatetic parties and demonstration centres at Calcutta and in rural areas are imparting information about improved methods of work in handloom weaving, handmade paper, ghani oil, pottery, palm-gur, coirweaving, locks making, sports goods, horn products, brass and bell-metal wares etc. A large number of co-operatives have been organised in these industries.

On the initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission the Ambar programme has been taken up in the State. Arrangements have been made to manufacture 75,000 Charkhas by 1961 for distribution to spinners. Four Parishramalayas have already started functioning in the State and are training people in Ambar spinning. Additional training facilities have been arranged under the auspices of the Refugee Rehabilitation Department at refugee camps. It is expected that 16 refugee industrial co-operatives will start work within two months.

Officer-Trainees at the Spinning Class at the Mahavidyalaya Centre at Hyderabad.

JAN SAHYOG KSHETRAS

THE GOVERNMENT of India have sanctioned a scheme submitted by the Bharat Sevak Samaj, under which the Samaj will establish, on the basis of a phased programme, 25 "Jan Sahyog Kshetras" in selected areas all over the country.

The principal task of the Samaj in these Kshetras, each of which will cover about 100 villages, will be to stimulate and direct the active co-operation of the people in the various developmental programmes proposed to be implemented in that area.

The Samaj has taken steps to ensure the active co-operation of all the leading social welfare organisations in the country. At a conference covened by the Samaj in June this year at Delhi, representatives of 22 voluntary organisations expressed general agreement with the broad outlines of the scheme proposed by the Bharat Sevak Samaj besides assuring their full co-operation to the Samaj in working the schemes.

The Samaj will work, therefore, in close co-operation with all other voluntary orgainsations, which are either already operating in the area or in a position to help in stimulating the co-operation of the people there. The Samaj and the voluntary workers functioning there will serve as agencies of the Panchayats and extension agencies securing for the various development schemes sponsored by them, public co-operation and participation.

Besides ensuring the implementation of such programmes by securing for them the active participation of the people, the Samaj and its band of voluntary workers will have the responsibility of organising and implementing "Lok Karya" (people's programmes), which will involve the maximum utilisation of all available manpower and local resources, without any kind of assistance from official agencies.

The method by which the Samaj proposes to organise its work in these areas will be to introduce in these Kshetras one or two promising young workers (to be called "Sahayogis and Up-Sahayogis") who will act as catalytic agents, in mobilising public participation in developmental programmes. Apart from the fact that these Sahayogis will be carefully selected on the basis of their special knowledge of the area, aptitude for work and a spirit of social service, they will also undergo a short period of intensive orientation in the techniques of initiating and sustaining group action in the villages.

The Samaj will receive a grant upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000 per year for organising activities on the above lines in a block, which will enable it to meet the organisational overheads and to plan properly its future course of action. Government assistance will also be available for the establishment of a training centre at which the Sahayogis will be trained.

WORLD AGRICULTURAL FAIR

(*continued from page* 5)

4. Rural Industries Sector

1. Khadi and Village Industries.
2. Handloom Industries.
3. Handicrafts.

5. Shopping Sector

Display and sale of goods produced by Indian industry.

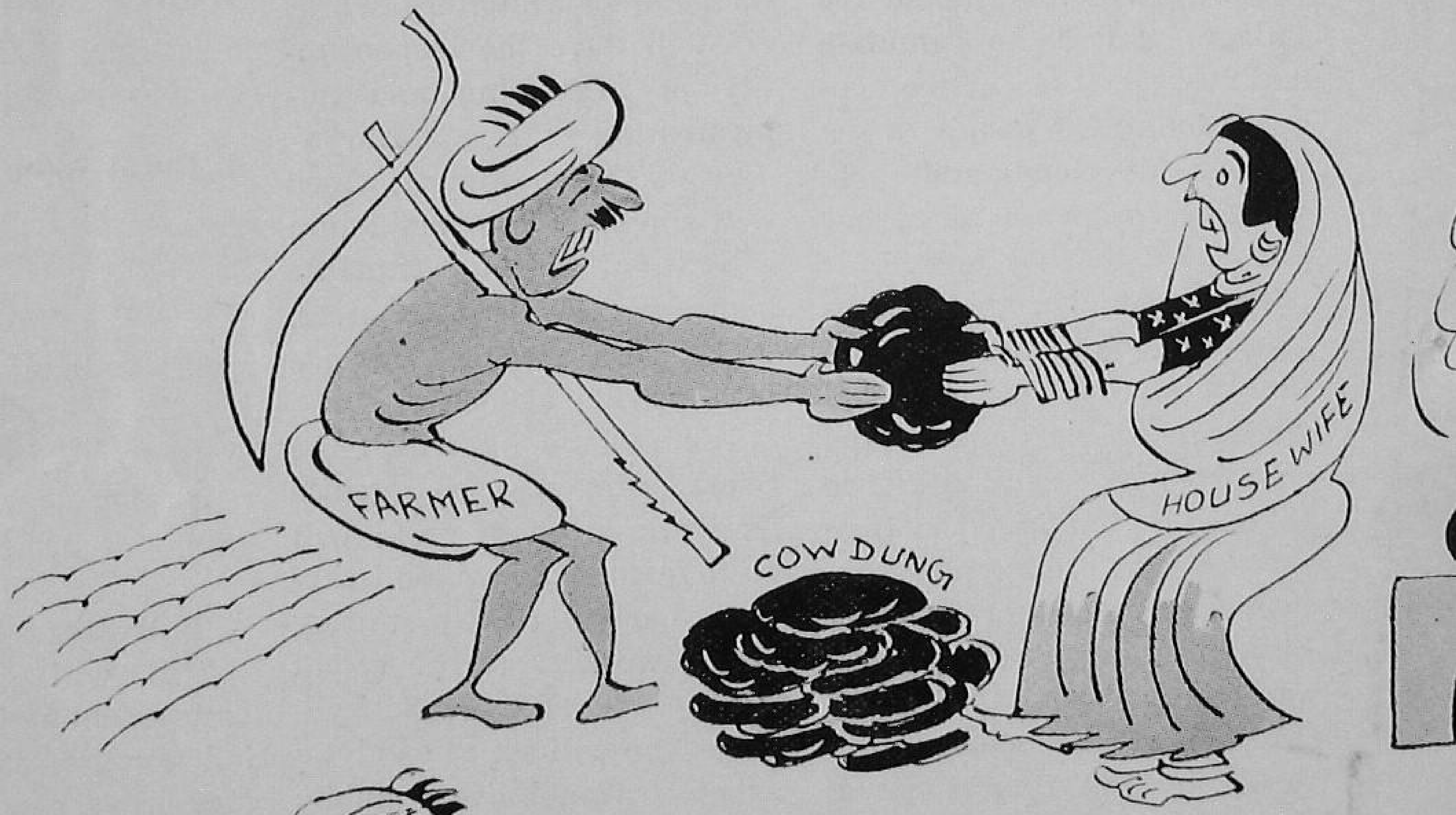
6. Entertainment Sector

This will consist of an amusement park and a theatre hall for drama, dance, music, film shows, etc.

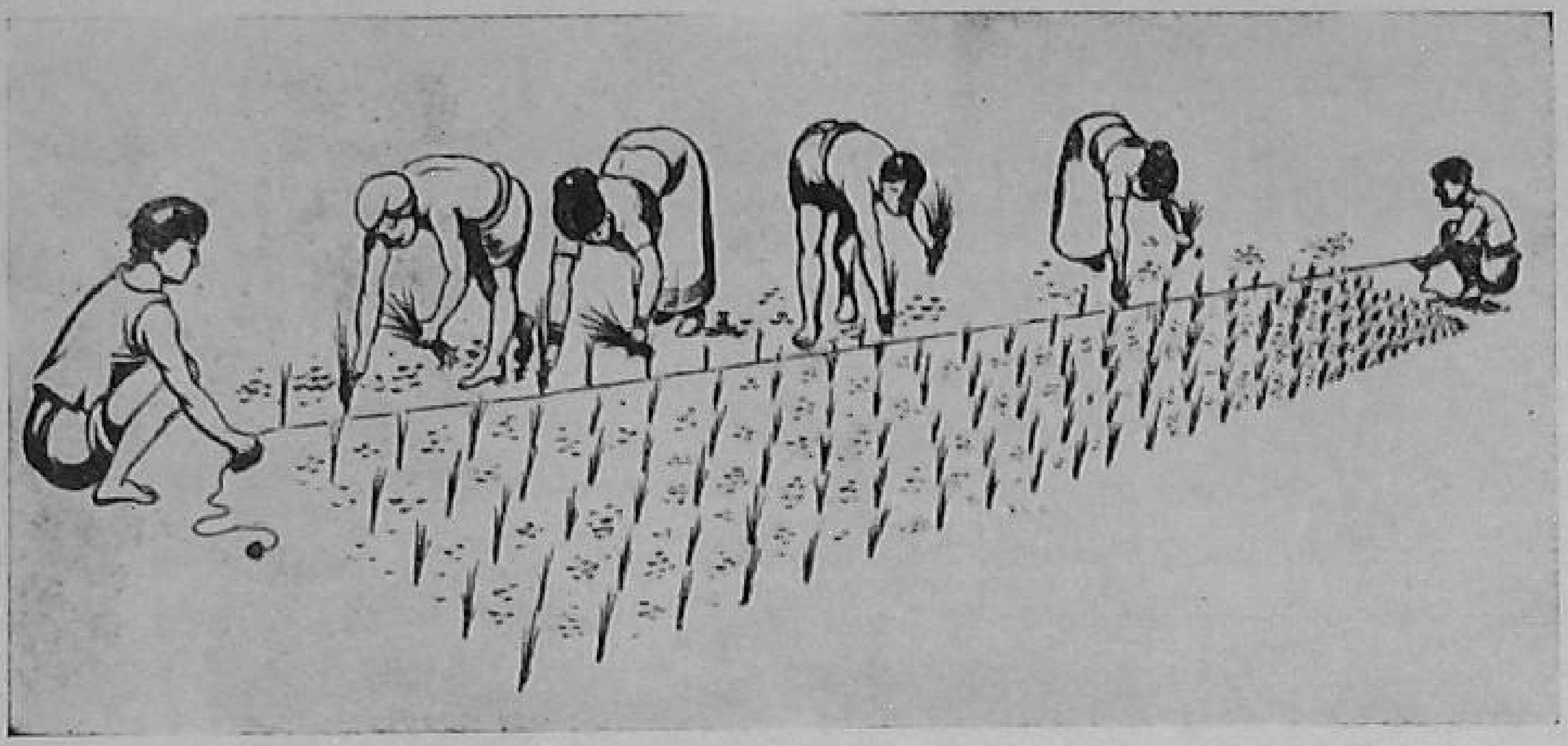
The fair will be held in New Delhi at the Exhibition Grounds on Mathura Road, facing the new building of the Supreme Court of India on the west, and the ancient fort of Kauravas and Pandavas (Purana Qila) on the south. The site is easily accessible from the railway and bus stations. It is the same site where the India 1958 Exhibition is now being held.

MARCH of TIME

AS SEEN BY OUR CARTOONIST



VARIETY SHOW
GRAM SAHAYAC
BLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BDO
ZILA PARISHAD
WOMAN MEMBER
PANCHAYAT
KITCHEN GARDEN
PEDIGREE ANIMAL



The Japanese Method

J. Saldhana

B.D.O., N.E.S. Block, Periyapatna

THAT effective propaganda at the opportune moment can work wonders is amply demonstrated in the remarkable results achieved in the J. P. method of paddy transplantation in the N.E.S. Block, Periyapatna.

This Block situated at a distance of 42 miles to the West of Mysore City in Mysore District on the Bangalore-Mangalore Road was inaugurated on 2-10-1956. It has a geographical area of 1,75,714 acres of which 79,175 is under the plough. The important crops in this area constitute Ragi, Tobacco and Horsegram grown under dry conditions and a total area of 5,000 acres under irrigation. Paddy is the only crop grown under irrigated conditions mostly under tanks with a sprinkling of irrigation wells here and there. The area actually grown with paddy is on the average 4,000 acres per year. There has, however, been an increase of about 500 acres as a result of plentiful rain during the current season.

The average rainfall in this area is about 33-48 inches. The current year up-to-end of August '58 has already recorded 34-77 inches with some more months still to go.

Until the inception of the Scheme, the ryots were following their age-old methods of agriculture with a seed rate ranging from 40 to 100 and in some cases even 160 seers per acre for paddy. With some propaganda during 1957-58, an area of 563 acres was brought under the Japanese method with yields ranging up to 20 pallas per acre.

Inspite of initial set backs like age old prejudices, lack of faith in improved methods, an intensive drive in this direction was launched. It was like mobilizing armed strength to fall on the enemy at strategical points. The entire Block staff of Extension Officers and Village Level Workers under the captaincy of the Block Development Officer, worked as a team throwing out ideas at the receptive moment. The V.L.Ws were equipped with seed, manures, improved implements and with all, a zeal to achieve spectacular results at all costs and little wonder that with this organization—with the Agricultural Extension Officer as the pivot, an area of 1,600 acres was brought under the Japanese method during the current season-by no means a small achievement.

Demonstration plots were spread over several places in the Block. The V.L.Ws stood to a man in wind and rain tucking up their sleeves and getting into slush, actually doing line transplantation. These parallel lines (in some cases mathematically perfect) appear to have caught the imagination of the ryot.

Distribution of fertilizers has shot up and there are bright prospects of greater improvement as may be seen from the figures quoted below:

Fertilizers distributed :

	57-58	58-59
Mds.	1,114	2,000

The total extent brought under this method is nearly 50% of the total area under paddy cultivation this year.

Detailed below are some of the steps taken by the Block staff which resulted in such an appreciable increase under the new method during the current crop season.

(1) Group and demonstration meetings were conducted

in villages where irrigated area is large well in advance of the season.

(2) Keeping sufficient stocks of seeds, manure, and insecticides for demonstration plots well in advance for free distribution.

(3) Careful selection of ryots and preparing them with propaganda on right lines on the usefulness of following the new methods individually and severally by advice and group talks,—the Agricultural Extension Officer coming into the picture as expert adviser where V.L.Ws found it hard to convince the ryot.

(4) Inducing the women engaged in transplanting (they constitute the hardest nut to crack what with the reluctance of the owner to spend a little more by way of wages) by infusing in them a competitive spirit by announcing award of prizes for the best among them and in some cases to all of them engaged in line planting.

(5) Announcing holding of crop competitions to best growers all over the Block with two prizes for each circle and two more for the first two at the Block Level in advance.

(6) Mobilizing the cooperation of the members of the Block Development Committee (some of whom are progressive agriculturists-chief among them being Sri Sri Channaveeradesikendra Swamigalu of Bettadapura mutt who has planted the entire area of 12 acres owned by him under the new method).

(7) Carrying seeds and fertilizers to the door of the ryot and physically assisting him in the adoption of the new method in his field.

Apart from these 1,600 acres under the Japanese method, there has been tangible improvement in :

(1) Seed rate,
(2) Raised bed nurseries,
(3) Application of fertilizers,
(4) Approximate line planting.

There were, as it always happens while introducing a new method in agriculture, set backs and obstacles. On the one hand there was apathy brought about by a doggedness not to admit of the efficacy of new methods, and on the other, the fear of greater time taken for line planting with its resultant extra cost by way of wages. To quote a funny incident that was met with during 1957-58—The V.L.W. of a particular circle having induced a farmer to adopt the Japanese method and having actually succeeded in getting an acre actually transplanted, had the misfortune of seeing the wife of the ryot filling in the blanks clandestinely. The lack of appreciation of the efficacy of fertilizers was another obstacle. That a seed rate of 6 to 10 seers per acre was more than ample for transplantation, was some thing the ryot found hard to swallow. These difficulties, insurmountable, as they appeared, paled into insignificance before the effective propaganda in favour of the method.

That right propaganda at the opportune moment can work wonders has been amply demonstrated in the spectacular success achieved during the current season. With crop competitions and Field Days arranged during the current season it is not too much to expect that the entire paddy area in this Block will come under the Japanese method of line transplantation during the coming season.

Fortune (comes) at random, but ploughing cannot fail.

* * *

The plough is at the bottom of all arts (i.e., agriculture is the foundation of all arts and science.)

* * *

The plough is king, the shop is queen, every other business has the mark of hell, (i.e., has great drawbacks).

(From a book of Agricultural Maxims)

Harish & Dayakar

R. Narayan Murty
V.L.W., Stage I Block, Hayatnagar, Andhra Pradesh.

"Oh ! What is there to be seen? This Community Development programme is all a tall talk and the Community Development Projects are sheer waste of poor tax-payer's money" said Dayakar in response to my invitation to pay a visit to my Block headquarters at Hayatnagar. I was shocked to hear Dayakar. I took him to be a good friend of mine, and a sympathetic one towards our programme. I did not know how to convince him. His mind was already prejudiced. There was a short silence. I was groping for words to reply to Dayakar when Harish, a post-graduate student and a mere acquaintance broke the ice. "Yes, Shri Dayakar that is the common impression amongst us—the city-bred so-called educated. I also thought of the Programme the same way till I stayed for a fortnight in one of the Blocks after my B.A. examination. My ideas about the programme are now completely changed. I am not so much interested with the physical targets achieved as the change of outlook that has been brought about in the villagers. That is due to our ignorance. The villagers are poor no doubt but they have got a strong common sense, a zest for life. Ages of negligence had taken away much of their initiative and self-confidence. The programme today attempts at restoring them, making the villager realize his needs, and I must say the programme has succeeded to a great extent. One has to go to the villages to see the change, and feel the pulse of the people there. It is better that........"

Before Harish could finish Dayakar intervened saying "I say Harish, since when have you become a great champion of the C.D. programme? Are you after some job?" Harish appeared agitated. I knew him to be a sharp-tongued young man. I became apprehensive of wordy duel and I thought that the evening was going to be spoilt.

"Truths are at times unpalatable. It requires breadth of vision to understand them. Why not accept Murty's invitation and go to Hayatnagar to see it for yourself?" replied Harish.

"But what is there to be seen? Murty says that in many of the villages they have built school buildings, constructed pucca roads, dug drinking water wells, supplied improved seeds, fertilizers and many such things. Do you mean to say through these acts the villages have become a heaven? I am not a child to believe in these things. Tell me how by my constructing school buildings, the villagers are going to be literates overnight?" I thought it proper to keep quiet and let the two fellows argue among themselves.

Harish replied, "The Programme was never claimed as Alladin's magic lamp, so that the villages could be changed overnight. Since you have raised the question of school buildings let me clear your doubts. Construction of school building may not be a big event but the bigger issue involved in it is to draw all the boys of school-going age to its fold. Perhaps you do not know that most of the boys in the village help their parents in their work. Some work in the field and some in the small cottage industries. To spare the boys for going to school means a lot of sacrifice on the part of the parents. They have to lose a helping hand. This they can do provided they realize that education for their children is of greater importance than helping them in the field. It requires a change in outlook, which I must say has come in a large measure. If you go to the village school, you will find that most of the boys are there learning the three R's.

"Similar is the case in the field of agriculture. It is not a new profession to them. They have been practising agriculture for generations. They know this work inside out through the methods they are pursuing since long. In most of the Block villages you

will find agriculturists following the Japanese method of paddy cultivation, using improved seeds and manures, and consulting the Block staff on many of their problems. If you go to Hayatnagar Block headquarters, you will find villagers from different corners of the Block, everyday coming there for some advice or help. Is it not a change in outlook?

"This is more marked in the field of health and sanitation. Our villagers even today attribute most of the ailments to the wrath of a god or goddess. They prefer to consult a priest or a witch doctor even a medical man is available near at hand. But in Block villages the position has changed. The V.L.W., or the Block Health Inspector is immediately sought for as soon as anybody is sick. People crowd round the Mobile Health van as soon as it comes to a village in its usual round. Do ou mean to say that this awareness about availing of medical facilities has nothing to do with the programme?"

Concluding his reply Harish said, "Dayakar, I do not say that the Programme is perfect or the working of the C.D. Projects are without any defects. Defects there are many but we are moving in the right direction. It is better that we city-bred fellows go to the villages, and see how the silent change is overtaking the countryside."

There was a lull for some time after Harish finished. Dayakar was in a pensive mood. Suddenly turning round to me he said that he was sorry for his rash remarks, and would surely pay a visit to my Block some time. The evening which started very gloomily ended on a happy note.

Paper from Banana Trunk

Kelwe-Mahim a village in Thana District of the Bombay State has banana plantations covering an area of 5,000 acres. Usually a banana plant attains its full growth in a year and comes to fruition. After the fruit is gathered it becomes barren for further production and has to be removed to make way for the fresh shoots to grow.

In the suburbs of Calcutta namely, Sodepur, Panihati, Barrackpore and Kharda, where banana grows in abundance, the banana trunks, after they have been cut and removed from the garden, are generally kept immersed in the Pushkarinis or small water pits, so abundant in rural Bengal. After being kept for some days under water, the trunks are beaten with wooden mallets till long hemp like fibres are obtained from them. The fibres are washed many times, till they become snow white. These fibres are then spun and twisted into cords which are ultimately coiled into thick manilla ropes and cords.

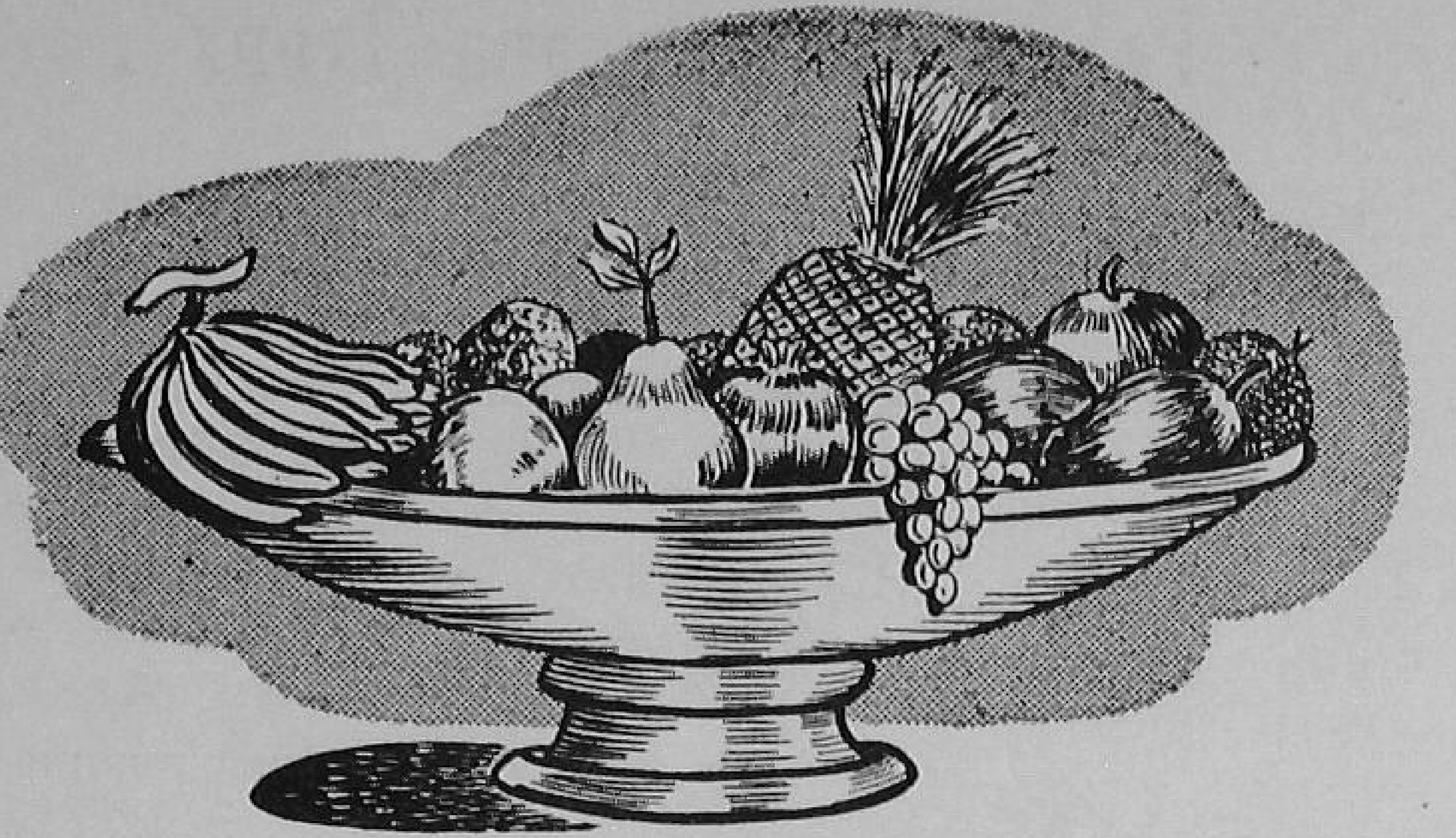
Thanks to the ingeunity of the villagers of Kelwe-Mahim, the banana trunks which were being wasted formerly are now being put to two very useful purposes, kela silk making and paper making.

Handmade paper of superior quality has recently been made from dried trunks of banana plants.

Some enterprising villagers conceived the idea and approached Shri Gondhalekar of the Handmade Paper Research Institute, Poona, to put their idea to experimental test. They supplied him with a number of dried banana tree trunks.

After various experiments and trials, Shri Gondhalekar has been successful in producing handmade paper from banana trunk pulp and this is superior to the handmade paper usually available in the market.

Now the Adivasi villagers of Kelwe-Mahim have formed the Kelwe-Mahim Paliwada Collective Farming Cooperative Society with a view to developing this new enterprise on a commercial basis. Necessary implements and technical guidance are being secured with the active help of Shri Gondhalekar.



TOMATO KETCHUP

SELECTION OF MATERIAL—Select fully ripe deep red coloured tomatoes free from bruises.

PRELIMINARY TREATMENT—Wash thoroughly to remove dirt, soil and other extraneous matter.

PREPARATION OF MATERIAL—Trim off the blemished as well as the green or yellow portions of the fruit and cut into small pieces. Crush them with a wooden ladle to facilitate easy extraction of the pulp.

EXTRACTION OF THE PULP—Heat the crushed mass to boiling and let it boil for 3-5 minutes. Strain it through 1 m.m. mesh sieve rubbing with the bottom of an enamelled cup to press out completely the pulp, and rejecting the seeds and skins.

RECIPES—As a result of experiments carried out in the Fruit Products Laboratories at Lyallpur, under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the following recipe has been evolved for use in every 6 gallons of pulp as obtained in item (4) above:—

1. Onions (chopped) 15 oz.
2. Garlic (chopped) 1 oz.
3. Cloves (whole) ½ oz.
4. Spices (coarsely powdered cardamom, black pepper, zira in equal quality) ½ oz.
5. Mace (Jalvatri not ground) ⅛ oz.
6. Cinnamon ¾ oz.
7. Red Chillies ½ oz.
8. Salt 12 oz.
9. Sugar 2 lb.
10. Vinegar (good quality) 2 bottles. (26 ozs.)

HEATING—To the pulp add the spices i.e., items 1-7 (loosely tied in a muslin bag) and one third the quantity of sugar and heat the mass till it thickens to approximately one third of its original volume, when the muslin bag is removed and squeezed to extract the flavour and aroma of the spices. Thereafter the requisite quantity of vinegar, salt and the remainder quantity of the sugar are added and mass heated for another few minutes so that the volume of the finished product is about one third that of the original pulp.

ADDITION OF PRESERVATIVE—To a small quantity of the finished product is added the preservative i.e., Sodium benzoate at the rate of 2 grains per lb. of the finished product and thoroughly mixed. This quantity of the finished product is then uniformly mixed with the rest of the product before packing.

BOTTLLING AND PASTEURIZATION—The finished product is poured into 12 oz. sterilized bottles, sealed air tight with a crown seal and then pasteurized in boiling water for 30 minutes.

Note :—The crown-corking machine can be had from machinery dealers like Messrs Gardners Corporation, New Delhi and Gladwyn & Co., Hornby Road, Bombay.

COOLING AND STORING—The bottles are cooled in air and stored in a cool, dry place.

THE RABI CAMPAIGN

THOUSANDS of agriculturally qualified personnel comprising "teams of helpers" are now going into the villages of Andhra Pradesh, U.P., Punjab, Rajasthan, Bombay, Mysore, Bihar and the Union Territory of Delhi—areas selected for the intensive rabi production campaign—in order to assist cultivators to adopt improved agricultural practices at the time of sowing. Crops to which particular attention will be devoted are wheat, barley, gram and rabi jowar; in some States, maize, paddy, ragi and peas are added to the list.

The campaign, which aims at streamlining the organization for more co-ordinated and effective action and timely supply of means of production, has started showing results. Already several thousand maunds of wheat and gram seed has moved from surplus States to areas needing it. Quantities of nitrogenous fertilizers supplied by the Centre have, in most of the States, been moved to appropriate places for distribution to cultivators. Similarly large-scale operations are under way in various States for treatment of seed against insect pests.

In the States

In Andhra Pradesh the campaign will be concentrated in about 1,000 villages. The improved seed drive is expected to cover 62,000 acres more than the target of 9.73 lakh acres earlier fixed for the current year. Supply of oil engines, electric motors and other water-lifting equipment besides issue of loans for sinking of wells are being expedited and instructions have been issued to speed up distribution of taccavi loans.

In Uttar Pradesh, where action committees have been set up at the State, zone, district, block and village levels, training is being imparted to about 2.5 lakh gram Sahayaks. They will be asked to adopt improved agricultural practices and each to induce at least 10 other cultivators to do likewise. Further, the State Government has agreed to sanction Rs. 75 lakhs as taccavi for distribution of fertilizers. Other features of the campaign are intensification of U.P. method of wheat cultivation, self-sufficiency in rabi seeds, line--sowing, top-dressing, weeding and interculture in barley and increase in double-crop area.

A total area of 50 lakh acres will be covered in the Punjab so far as wheat is concerned. For gram and barley, the campaign will be intensified in 8 districts—covering a total of 60 lakh acres under gram and 5.5 lakh acres under barley. Village plans are being prepared and targets of not less than 20 per cent increase in production are being fixed for each family.

The target in Rajasthan is to achieve 10 per cent increase in the production of wheat and barley over the best production during the last three years. Five lakh maunds of improved wheat seed and 10,000 maunds of improved barley seed will be distributed through co-operative societies. Border strip method of irrigation will be utilized in canal irrigated areas and pacca channels will be constructed and cleaned. An important feature of the programme in Rajasthan is the adoption of villages by officials right from the Development Commissioner to the village level worker.

About 60,000 project leaders who have already been trained in N.E.S. areas will lead the rabi campaign in Bihar. In non-block areas, the staff and students of agricultural colleges, basic agricultural schools, extension training centres and research institutes will form the teams of helpers A subsidy of 50 per cent will be given for the purchase of specified improved implements and plant protection equipment.

For improving irrigation facilities in Bombay State, Collectors have been asked to ensure quick repairs of channels. In the case of repair or cleaning of private channels they will make arrangements for speedy grant of taccavi loans. In Mysore targets of increased production are being fixed for each block and V.L.W. circle and prizes would be offered as an incentive for the achievment of the targets.

Fire Safety in Rural India

M. G. Pradhan,

Commandant, National Fire Service College.

FAR AWAY from the gaiety and glamour of cities, India's teeming millions toil hard to produce food for the rest of the people. Yet, these are the persons, living in huts and hamlets, who lack the elementary protection to the life and property from fire. Nothing can be more heart-breaking to a farmer than to see that everything he had earned and piled had been consumed by flames. If a careful survey of the causes of such disasters were to be made, it would be found that many of these fires could have been easily avoided or at least their damage minimised.

Villages and rural areas usually suffer from certain characteristic disadvantages, such as: highly combustible nature of thatched dwellings; scarcity of water, particularly during summer; high wind velocity due to vast open areas, and defective roads not passable by fire-fighting vehicles. Moreover, houses clustered closely afford ideal conditions for an instant spread of the fire.

COMMON CAUSES

Normally, the causes of fire disasters are: use of open cooking fires in kitchens with firewood as fuel, burning embers of which shoot up high, igniting the roof or wooden shelf above kitchen fire; inattentive use of naked flame oil lamps as well as kitchen fires, which are left burning while household members are in bed; careless smoking and disposal of burning bidi or cigarette butts near about stacks of hay or grain; sparks from chimneys or crude domestic heating and cooking arrangements or from nearby locomotives; Burning of grasslands without proper precautions; spontaneous combustion which starts in newly-cut straw or hay stacks due to moisture content.

There are causes as well like display of fireworks at festival time, village feuds resulting in arson and lightning.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

It is not easy to have organised Fire Services in rural areas to attend to such fires, specially at places situated far off from towns equipped with Fire Services. The solution is to take preventive measure and minimise the occurrences.

Huts should be constructed, as far as possible, with non-combustible materials, such as thick mud, bricks or stones with roofs of metal, or asbestos sheets or tiles, particularly the portions around the kitchen fire and the roof above it. If split-bamboo is to be used in construction, it should be plastered with thick mud on both sides and lime washed to make it a little fire resistant.

Naked oil lamps or kitchen fires should never be allowed to burn when retiring to bed.

Cigarette or bidi as well as burning matchsticks and kitchen fires, should be fully extinguished when done with.

Straw and hay should be stacked away from the village roads or railway lines to avoid sparks falling on them. If fields are situated next to the roads or railway line a buffer belt of green field be developed to keep the stacks at some distance.

Hay stacks not more than 500 maunds in weight and 25 ft. in height, should be built up keeping 60 ft. apart from each other or from other farm buildings.

Whenever waste material, grassland, rubbish, stubble etc., are to be burnt, it should be done on a calm day while leaving enough space to serve as a fire break. To avoid spontaneous combusion, the newly-cut hay should be stacked from sides keeping a vertical opening through the centre which, before the stack is sufficiently high, should be filled in with loose straw. This will allow the internal heat to escape through the loose straw.

All combustible storages such as fuel, wood, oils, paints, spirits etc., should be kept in separate rooms detached from dwellings. Shop-

(continued on page 22)

GRAM SAHAYAKS

Follow-up Activities

We give below copy of a questionnaire issued by Kerala Government for the information of our field-workers

QUESTIONNAIRE

I. General

1. Are you maintaining the follow-up registers in the prescribed form as laid down in our Circular ?

2. Are the Sahayaks keeping a record of their activities on individual and group projects ?

3. How many times have the Gram Sevak, the Extension Officers, the Block Development Officer and District Officers contacted the Sahayaks in their tours to villages; and if so, whether any remarks have been made in the note books of the Sahayaks about any suggestions or help given ?

4. Is follow-up work being reviewed in the fortnightly meetings and Block and District Advisory meetings ?

5. Have you any difficulties in carrying on the follow-up activities ? If so, what are they, and what are your suggestions ?

II. Items of Improvement of the Individual :

1. How many trained Sahayaks have adopted Japanese method of Paddy Cultivation ?

2. How many of the Sahayaks are utilised as the Official agency for multiplication of improved seeds and its systematic exchange at the Village Level, etc.?

3. How many trained Sahayaks have started model Agriculture Farms to practise and demonstrate improved agricultural methods ?

4. How many Sahayaks have taken to seed multiplication (Paddy & Coconut) and the production of green manure seed for distribution in the Block ?

5. How many have Kitchen Gardens in their houses ?

6. What is the area in which soil conservation measures and cantour bunding is being undertaken ?

7. How many Sahayaks have improved their cattle sheds ? How many have taken to regular composting of Cattle Manure ?

8. Have the Sahayaks taken to the cultivation of fodder for cattle ? Have they taken any steps to improve the breed of cattle ?

9. How many Sahayaks have started Poultry Farms to meet the demand in the Block villages ? How many have Backyard Poultry in their own Homes ?

10. How many Gram Sahayaks have subscribed for our Journal ?

11. How many of the Gram Sahayaks are members of institutions like Co-operatives, Farmers' Forums, Farmers' Clubs, Bharat Sevak Samajams, etc. ?

III. Items of Mass Improvement ?

1. Has any mass awakening been brought about in any area in respect of any particular item of improvement as a result of the Training Camp ? If so, please mention specifically the items; the extent over which the improvement is already effected or scheduled to be effected and the number of farmers participating in the improved practice ?

2. Are trained Sahayaks being recognised as the main medium of spreading agriculture and allied information in the villages and if so, quote instances ?

3. What is the total number of untrained farmers in the village area who have been persuaded and induced by the trained Sahayaks to take regular composting and other improve methods in Agriculture ?

4. Is there any noticeable increase in the demands for manure, improved implements, seeds or pesticides or eggs poultry, etc., after the Camp ?

5. In an area where a Camp is conducted, have the Village Panchayat and the Co-operative accepted the responsibility for the programmes for increased production ?

6. Has any land been brought afresh under cultivation as a result of the Gram Sahayaks' Campaign for increasing production ?

7. Are there any other significant (individual or group) achievements ?

8. How many Farmers' Clubs, Farming Co-operatives or similar institutions have been newly started in the area as a result of the Camp ? Has any old institution which was not working satisfactorily been revived and if so, whether it is working well now?

9. Are the coconut trees in the area infected? Have the Gram Sahayaks taken to spraying the trees and manuring them ?

10. Are there any teachers in the area who have undertaken the Orientation Course in the C.D. Blocks and if so, how many of them have attended the Gram Sahayaks' Camps in the area ? Are they taking an active part in those activities ?

11. Who is the most progresssive and helpful Sahayak in your area ? Please give his name and address. What are your reasons for spotting him out as the best ? Do you think a study tour if undertaken by him to other Blocks in the State will any way help to accelerate the progress of activities in the Village ?

12. Are there any other points on which you would like to offer remarks ? If so, specify those points and offer remarks ?

FIRE SAFETY IN RURAL INDIA

(*Continued from page* 20)

ping areas and bazaars should be built with sufficient wide open spaces in between.

OCCASIONAL FIRES

To deal with occasional accidental fires in rural areas the villagers should be taught the elementary fire preventive methods. The fright from their minds has to be removed as regards calling the Fire Service through the Police or the Village Revenue Officials, assuring them that they would in no way be punished for such actions on their part. They should, on the contrary, be taught to consider this as their sacred duty to help their fellow villagers in their hour of peril.

As soon as a fire has occurred, there should be an immediate alarm for the far-off people to hear. Through, fire buckets, dry sand or earth, fire beaters or brooms or fire bats of green twigs and shovels or spades, the fire can be fought. A few dwellings or huts around the fire may even have to be pulled down to achieve this object. Somebody should run up to the village Police Post or Revenue Official and give information to enable him to call the nearest available Fire Service, if possible.

Water is most essentially needed to extinguish fire and, therefore, villagers should be educated to maintain all sources of water, such as wells, ponds, streams, canals, lakes, rivers etc., in good condition. Fire-fighting implements such as stirrup pumps, buckets, scoops and rakes, fire beaters, hay knives, shovels and spades etc. should be maintained at a central place, may be a Panchayat Ghar or a Police Post. A small payment for the maintenance of these equipment may be made to a group of young enthusiastic villagers who should occasionally visit the place of storage and clean the equipment so as to keep them in working order.

TREE COTTON

Dadabhai Naik

EVERY family in India, which owns even a small open piece of land in or near the house can grow enough cotton on it, to meet the cloth needs of the family. Tree-cotton is very easy to grow.

The cultivation of tree-cotton has come down to us from the remote past when Brahmins used to make their own sacred threads with their own hands from home-grown cotton. The tradition still continues in Bihar where Maithili Brahmins make their sacred threads from home-grown cotton even today.

The tree-cotton can conveniently be grown in house yards, on projecting parapets in bungalow compounds, fields, street-sides, river banks, and other places of public use. It can be grown even on the hedges of pasture lands. No separate fields are required for its cultivation.

Fine and durable cloth can be manufactured from Indian tree-cotton.

As the dyed varieties of cotton are strong and more suited to the needs of the labourer they should be cultivated and developed in the country. They easily withstand even frost.

Too much importance should not be attached to the staple length of cotton fibres. The percentage of their maturity should be the main consideration in their choice.

Cloth manufactured from strong and durable cotton fibres last longer.

Tree-cotton seeds will be available to the public from Sarvodaya Samiti, Sarguja, P. O. Ambikapur, and also from the Ambar Vidyalaya, Harijan Ashram, Ahmedabad-13, with effect from January 1959. They are also available at different State Government Farms in the country.

FACTS ABOUT RICE

THE TOTAL production of rice all the world over (excluding the U.S.S.R.) was about 215 million tons (metric) in 1956. Of this Asia accounted for over 200 million tons.

India is the second largest producer of rice (the first being China—82 million tons) with an aggregate yield of about 43 million tons.

Though India and China have the largest area under rice cultivation, the highest per hectare* yield (1956) was accounted for by Spain (5,810 kilograms)**, followed by Egypt (5,430 kgs.), Australia (5,290 kgs.), Italy (4,690 kgs.), Portugal (4,230 kgs.) and Japan (4,220 kgs.).

In India the area under rice cultivation extends over 78 million acres. Yield per acre is only about 544 kilograms.

In 1957-58 the top five producers of rice among the States were West Bengal (41,85,000 tons), Andhra Pradesh (34,68,000 tons), Madras (31,34,000 tons), Uttar Pradesh (22,84,000 tons) and Bihar (21,98,000 tons).

* 1 Hectare—2½ acres approximately.

** 1 Kilogram—1 seer and 1.2 ch.

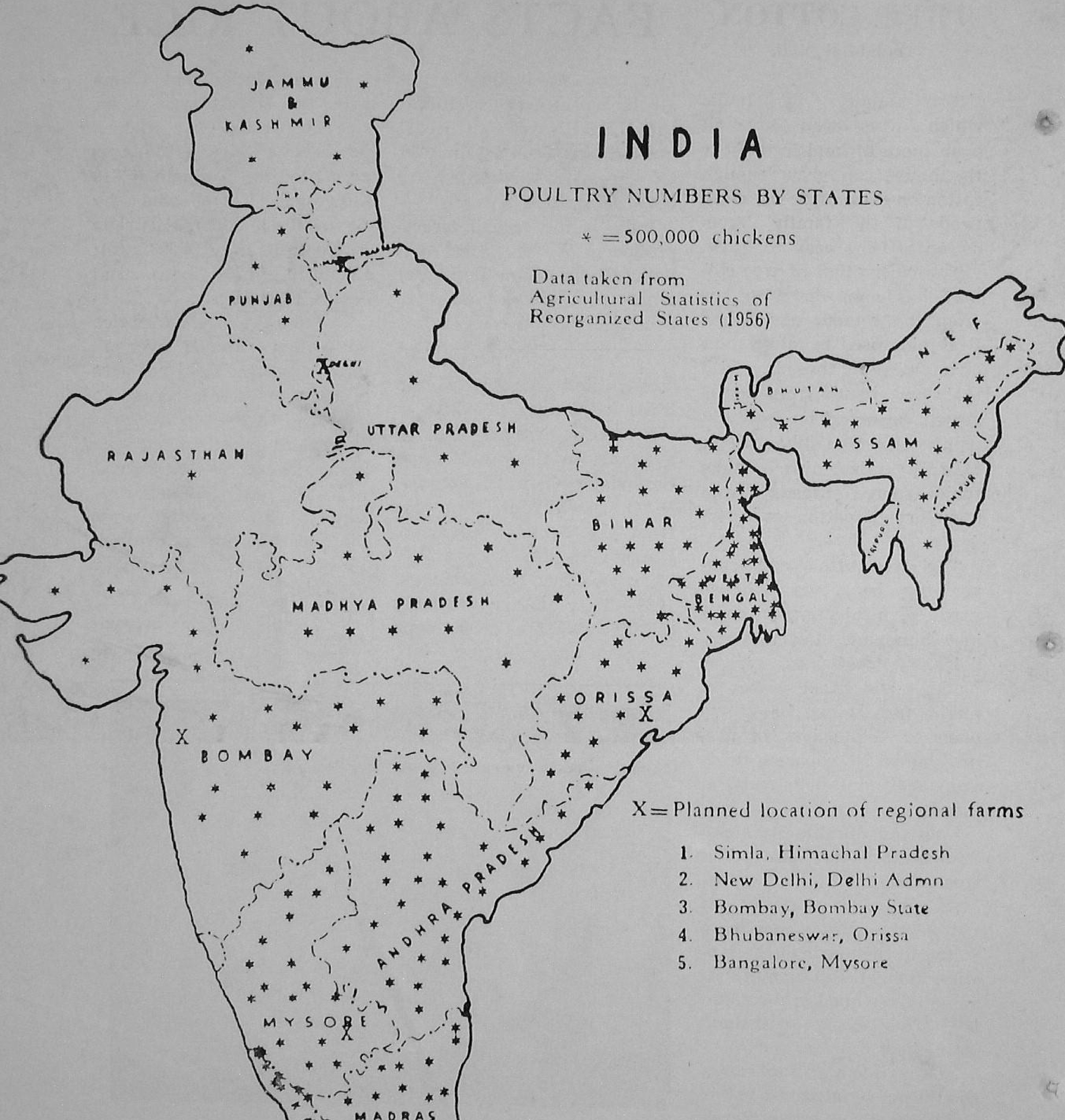
Spare time for Kanta Kalia, a village-level worker posted at Rangpura near Delhi, is business time. Instead of idle gossip, she gives informal lessons on improved kitchen maintenance to her friend, a Rangpura housewife.

INDIA

POULTRY NUMBERS BY STATES

* =500,000 chickens

Data taken from Agricultural Statistics of Reorganized States (1956)



X= Planned location of regional farms

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